



NEWS RELEASE

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SBA schedules training for HIV positive entrepreneurs

The Small Business Administration will partner with Positive Resource Center to offer training for people living with HIV/AIDS who are interested in starting their own business July 14, 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the SBA Entrepreneur Center, 455 Market St.

“This is the tenth workshop like this we’ve put on with PRC and they’ve all gone really well. I think everyone who’s attended has gotten something useful out of them and I’m always glad to see people move on from these classes to actually starting their own business. It’s very gratifying,” said Gary Marshall, Economic Development Specialist for SBA.

“When we started these four years ago, our idea was that people living with HIV could benefit from owning their business as opposed to working for someone else. The flexibility and control entrepreneurs have can be important to people with complicated medical regimens and fluctuating levels of energy. We thought it was important to provide the option of business ownership to people who had been out of the work force and whose situation had evolved to allow them to go back to working,”

“Now we see that’s still important, but also that there’s a huge level of interest in the HIV community in general for finding out how to run a business. Since we’re the federal agency that helps small businesses, I think it’s important for us to provide that,” Marshall said.

The class will cover marketing, management assistance, business registration, financing, and resources for small businesses. “It’s a basic class but very comprehensive. People really get an idea about what’s involved in having their own business,” said Marshall.

“We see many people living with HIV/AIDS whose goals include self-employment,” said Mark Misrok, Employment Services Program Coordinator for Positive Resource Center. “Starting or developing a small business can be a great option for people who have had to stop working or are re-evaluating their work lives.”

“PRC was already conducting workshops to let their clients consider if starting a small business was right for them. We wanted to expand on that idea to provide the basic framework of actually getting a company off the ground. I’m glad that it keeps on being such a good idea for all of us.” Marshall said.

Registration is free and includes lunch. Information and registration is available through the SBA at (415) 744-6771 or at www.acteva.com/go/sba

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